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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A resin composition consisting essentially of: (A) 10 to 70 parts by weight polyphenylene ether, (B) 15 to 75 parts by weight syndiotactic polystyrene polymer, (C) 0 to 50 parts by weight atactic polystyrene resin, (D) 5 to 40 parts by weight non-halogen fire retardant wherein the sum of components (A)+(B)+(C)+(D) = 100 parts by weight, and (E) ~~thermoplastic elastomer~~ hydrogenated styrene block copolymer in an amount of 10 to 200 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of resin composition wherein hydrogenated styrene block copolymer the ~~thermoplastic elastomer~~ has a molecular weight distribution below 10 and the composition has a tensile strength greater than or equal to 34 and a tensile elongation greater than 5 when determined according to ASTM D638.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The resin composition of Claim 1, wherein the polyphenylene ether component is poly(2,6-dimethyl-1,4-phenylene)ether having intrinsic viscosity in the range of 0.08 to 0.60 dl/g when measured in chloroform at 30°C.

4. (previously presented) The resin composition of Claim 1, wherein the non-halogen fire retardant is an aromatic phosphoric ester.

5. (currently amended) The resin composition of Claim [[2]] 1, [[the]] wherein ~~thermoplastic elastomer~~ the hydrogenated styrene block copolymer is a block copolymer of styrene and butadiene or styrene and isoprene.

6. (Original) A wire covering made from the resin composition of Claim 1.

7. (Original) A cable covering made from the resin composition of Claim 1